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The refineries did not operate successfully during the first quarter 1949. Output of fuel and lubricating oil significantly increased in the second quarter. The Order of Lenin Refinery imeni Stalin was particularly successful in greatly exceeding its plan for the production of light petroleum products. The refineries imeni Andreyev and imeni Vano Sturua also fulfilled their pledges.

A huge network of pipe lines has been put in operation in the "Azneftezavody" refineries in order to prevent losses of petroleum. During the first 6 months of 1949, losses were cut 15.5 percent below the norm. "Azneftezavody" Association refineries have also achieved great savings of fuel and electric power, saving 150 percent more fuel than pledged and 2.8 million kilowatt-hours of electric power.

PETROLEUM TRUSTS COMPLETE 7-MONTH PLAN -- Bakinskiy Rabochiy, No 144, 24 Jul 49

The "Artemneft'" and "Nefgeschalaneft'" trusts have completed ahead of schedule the 7-month petroleum extraction plan. Since the beginning of 1949, the average daily fuel extraction of the "Artemneft'" Trust has increased 24 percent, and 35 additional wells have been put into operation.

Bakinskiy Rabochiy, No 146, 27 Jul 49

The "Buzovnyneft'" Trust has completed the 7-month plan. Since the first of the year, the trust has activated 60 additional wells. Savings have amounted to 16 million rubles.

Only three of the five sections of the "Azizbekovneft'" Trust are meeting the production plan. The fifth section is completing the daily plan only 95.5 percent.

The "Molotovneft'" Trust is lagging as usual.

NEW RECORD SET IN SINKING OIL WELLS -- Pravda, No 213, 1 Aug 49

The "Buzovnyneft'" Trust in Baku has the highest record in the USSR for sinking oil wells. The last record -- 4,007.5 meters per machine per month -- was set in July by F. Minasov.

Pravda, No 201, 20 Jul 49

A drilling brigade of the "Krasnokamskneft'" Trust attained an average speed /including nonoperating time/ of 1,136 meters per machine-month, setting a new record for western Ural petroleum fields.

GASOLINE FUEL SUBSTITUTES PROGRAM LAGS -- Trud, No 176, 21 Jul 49

The rapid increase in the number of USSR automobiles enforces ever greater demands on the Soviet petroleum industry. For this reason it is necessary to develop the use of petroleum substitutes in automobile transportation.

Natural gas and gas obtained from processing petroleum or coal are the chief substitutes for petroleum. Automobiles operating on gas can also normally operate on liquid fuel. Gas-burning automobiles can be converted to gasoline in a few minutes. The construction of such gas lines as the Saratov-Moscow, Dasha-Kiev, and Kokhtla-Yarve makes possible the wider use of gas-cylinder automobiles.

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Nevertheless, the plan for wider use of gas-burning automobiles is not being carried out satisfactorily. The primary cause for this is the failure of the Ministry of Petroleum Industry to organize a satisfactory system of gas supply. Glavneftegazstroy (Main Administration of Petroleum and Gas Industry Enterprise Construction) has not organized a network of filling and distributing stations. Glavgaztopprom (Main Administration of Gas Industry and Synthetic Liquid Fuels Industry), which is supposed to design, construct, and operate these stations, is doing almost nothing about this matter. Special automobile and railroad tankcars for shipping compressed gas, and light and durable gas cylinders are needed. The pipe-rolling plants of the Ministry of Metallurgical Industry so far have done nothing about producing such cylinders. Compressors and other equipment for gas-cylinder stations are being produced in inadequate quantities. The Five-Year Plan calls for the restoration of the production of gas-generator and gas-cylinder automobiles, but the Ministry of Automobile and Tractor Industry has not done this. The automobile plants imeni Molotov and imeni Stalin which produced gas-cylinder automobiles before the war no longer do so. Other plants have lowered the production of such parts as reducers, mixers, and filters used in converting gasoline motors to gas.

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